

SEPTEMBER 3, 1976

THE U.S. AND THE SOVIET ARMS BUILDUP

AINCR: THERE IS GROWING CONCERN IN THE UNITED STATES OVER EVIDENCES OF A GROWING SOVIET MILITARY BUILDUP. NEWS ANALYST FRED GALVAN HAS THESE OBSERVATIONS:

VOICE: TWO AUTHORITATIVE BRITISH SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON WORLD ARMAMENTS TELL OF AN INCREASE IN SOVIET MILITARY STRENGTH THAT IS RAISING QUESTIONS AND CAUSING CONCERN HERE IN THE UNITED STATES.

THE LATEST ISSUE OF JANE'S FIGHTING SHIPS SAYS THE SOVIET NAVY NOW OPERATES ON A WORLDWIDE SCALE--WITH TYPES AND NUMBERS OF SHIPS IN EXCESS OF THOSE NEEDED FOR HOME DEFENSE. THE PUBLICATION'S EDITOR SAYS THIS GIVES THE SOVIET UNION GREATER FLEXIBILITY FOR INTERVENTION FAR FROM ITS OWN SHORES.

A REPORT JUST ISSUED BY LONDON'S INSTITUTE FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES NOTES THAT BOTH THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES CONTINUE TO MODERNIZE THEIR STRATEGIC NUCLEAR WEAPONS. BUT IT SUGGESTS AN IMPORTANT DIFFERENCE. THE AMERICAN APPROACH LEANS MORE HEAVILY ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT. THE SOVIET METHOD RELIES MORE ON DEPLOYMENT OF NEW TYPES OF MISSILES.

FACTS SUCH AS THESE PROVIDE A BACKDROP FOR POSITIONS ALREADY TAKEN ON NATIONAL DEFENSE BY THE MAJOR CONTENDERS IN THE AMERICAN PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN. BOTH CANDIDATES AGREE ON A POLICY BASED ON PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH, BUT THEY DIFFER SOMEWHAT IN THEIR APPROACHES TO IT. MISTER FORD SAID WORLD PEACE CAN BEST BE INSURED THROUGH AN AMERICAN MILITARY CAPACITY THAT COMMANDS RESPECT IN OTHERS. IN A SPEECH TO THE NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION--AN ORGANIZATION OF STATE MILITIAS--WEDNESDAY, HE CRITICIZED PAST CONGRESSES FOR CUTTING DEFENSE SPENDING IN RECENT YEARS.

HE ALSO CRITICIZED THOSE AMERICANS--MISTER CARTER BY IMPLICATION--WHO HE SAID WOULD RETRENCH ON AMERICAN DEFENSE COMMITMENTS OVERSEAS. THERE CAN BE NO RETREAT, HE SAID, FROM A WORLD HE CALLED "STILL A DANGEROUS PLACE. WE CANNOT," HE ADDED, "LAY DOWN OUR ARMS IN THE SIMPLE HOPE THAT OTHERS WILL FOLLOW OUR LEAD."

MISTER CARTER, FOR HIS PART, HAS CALLED FOR DEFENSE BUDGETS THAT WOULD BE "LEAN, MUSCULAR AND FLEXIBLE," CLOSELY LINKED TO A CONTINUING JOINT EFFORT FOR PEACE BY THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION. AND HE CALLED FOR AN END TO WASTE AND DUPLICATION IN FUTURE DEFENSE BUDGETS.

AT THE SAME TIME, BOTH MEN HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY STAND FOR A MUTUAL SEARCH WITH THE SOVIET UNION FOR A REDUCTION OF ARMAMENT LEVELS AMONG ALL NATIONS.

BUT WHILE THAT SEARCH GOES ON, BOTH MEN ARE ALSO CONVINCED THAT THE PRICE OF FREEDOM IS CONTINUED VIGILANCE--AS THE REPORTS BY JANE'S FIGHTING SHIPS AND THE LONDON INSTITUTE OF STRATEGIC STUDIES SUGGEST.

PCA/FFG/GT